

**REMARKS**

This Preliminary Amendment amends the above-identified United States Patent Application to add a Cross-Reference to Related Applications section, to correct typographical and grammatical errors, to place the text into standard American English, to reformat the application, and amend the claim set to comply with United States patent practice. No new matter is added by this amendment. Entry of this amendment is hereby requested.

**CONCLUSION**

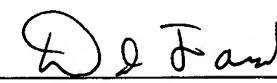
Claims 1-18 are now pending in the above-identified United States Patent Application. All claims are believed to be in condition for allowance and an indication of such is earnestly solicited. If there are any issues that can be addressed by telephone with the Applicant's representative, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 19-2090.

Respectfully submitted,

SHELDON & MAK  
A Professional Corporation

Date: December 21, 2004

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